

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/050980

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
 - ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
 - ☒ the description:
 - pages 4-7 _____ as originally filed/furnished
 - pages* 1-3, 3a _____ received by this Authority on 14.02.2005 with letter of 09.02.2005
 - pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 - ☒ the claims:
 - nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
 - nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 - nos.* 1-7 _____ received by this Authority on 14.02.2005 with letter of 09.02.2005
 - nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 - ☒ the drawings:
 - sheets 1/2-2/2 _____ as originally filed/furnished
 - sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 - sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 - ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - ☐ the description, pages _____
 - ☒ the claims, nos. 8 _____
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☒ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - ☒ the description, pages 2 _____
 - ☐ the claims, nos. _____
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-7</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-7</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-7</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
Reference is made to the following document:			
D1: WO-A-03039929			
<u>Claim 1</u>			
Document D1 is considered the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1 and discloses (the references between parentheses refer to that document):			
a method that is suitable for eliminating erroneous messages in monitoring systems for electronic appliances (page 2, lines 21-26, page 3, lines 18-26), in particular for sensor circuits in motor vehicles (page 6, line 35 - page 7, line 9), in which error messages result in the incrementation of a counter (page 2, lines 27-35, page 7, lines 21-27), with an alarm (page 14, line 35 - page 15, line 5) being triggered only when a predetermined position on the counter is reached (page 2, lines 27-35).			

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Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The subject matter of claim 1 thus differs from the known method in that, using a programme executed by a processor, error messages are generated when one of the input variables to be monitored exceeds the limit value defined therefor, the counter reading being checked to see whether at least one error message has been generated and, when appropriate, the input variable in question being subjected early to a further check.

The subject matter of claim 1 is thus novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The present invention can therefore be considered to address the problem of guaranteeing more rapid triggering of the alarm when dealing with a plurality of input variables.

The solution to this problem as proposed in claim 1 of the present application involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons: that the counter reading is checked to see whether at least one error message has been generated and, when appropriate, the input variable in question is subjected early to a further check means that a variable for which an error message has already been generated is preferably monitored early. This results in a substantial increase in the speed at which the alarm is triggered in comparison with the method disclosed in document D1.

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No such method is disclosed or suggested by the available prior art.

Claims 2-6

Claims 2-6 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty (PCT Article 33(2)) and inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Claim 7

The subject matter of claim 7 concerns an arrangement corresponding to the subject matter of claim 1. Claim 7 therefore also meets the PCT requirements for novelty (PCT Article 33(2)) and inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

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Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of:

Box I

Basis of the report

The amendments submitted with the letter of 9 February 2005 introduce substantive matter which, contrary to PCT Article 34(2)(b), goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed. The amendments are as follows: further details relating to the problems to be solved (page 2, lines 12 and 13 of the description) which have no basis in the original application.